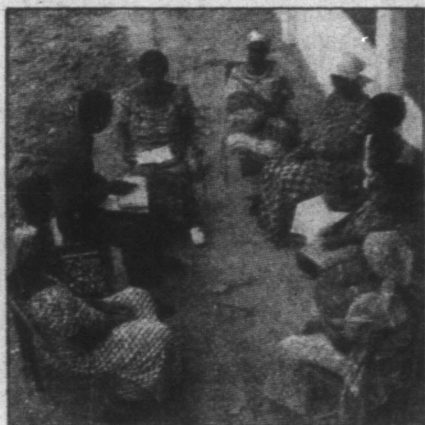
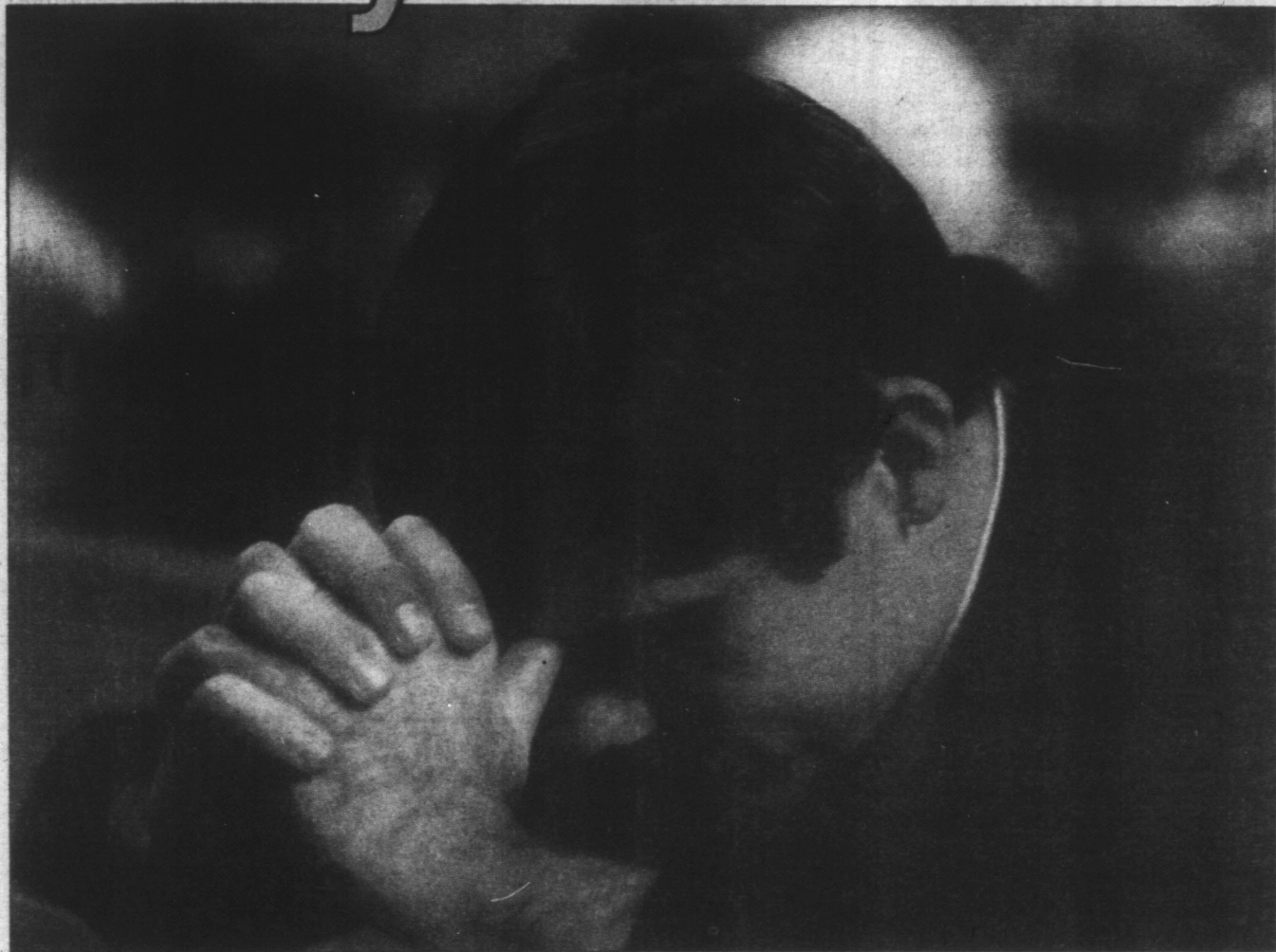


Pray . . .



That All May Hear

Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions • November 29 to December 6, 1987 • Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
National Goal: \$75,000,000

10,000 youths from 143 nations will descend on Glasgow in '88

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND — The 10,000 participants from 143 nations who will descend on this city July 27-31, 1988 for the 11th Baptist Youth World Conference will get plenty of action. The International Program Committee has enlisted Christian musicians, music groups, and speakers to lead the 'Celebration' period each evening. In a special hall each day, a two-hour mid-day 'Festival' will spotlight national endeavors and international cuisine and a wide variety of Christian performers will share their talents at various locations of the cavernous

conference center (SECC). Each day will even include after-hour 'fringe' activities for the 'night owls.' However, the real action will take place in the 'Communities' and 'Family Groups,' according to Denton Lotz, director of the Baptist World Alliance Youth Division, which is sponsoring the five-day event.

Upon arriving in Glasgow each participant will be assigned to a 'Community.' During the week in Glasgow, warm Christian friendships will surely develop among the 500 members of these Communities, since much of the

conference life will take place there. Each Community will be further subdivided into smaller 'Family Groups,' a division which will take into account language and cultural needs of the participants.

The Conference theme, "Jesus Christ Rules," will be emphasized in many ways throughout the week.

Further information and Registration Forms may be obtained through the Registration Office, 11th Baptist Youth World Conference, Baptist Church House, 14 Aytoun Road, Glasgow, G41 5RT Scotland.

The Baptist Record

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC

Published Since 1877

Nashville, Tennessee

Thursday, November 26, 1987



O GIVE THANKS

Lord,

I've thanked You for the roses that bloom along my way,
I've thanked You for the blessings poured down on me each day,
I've thanked You for life's beauty and all my answered prayers,
And for Your strong support beneath life's load of cares,
But Father, in my weakness, I somehow failed to show
Appreciation for the thorn You placed upon the rose.
So thank You for the clouds from which Your blessings pour
For the prayers, which without answers, only teach me to pray more,
And for my daily problems which are my cross to bear,
Thank You, Father, for each one proves how much You really care.
The rose's thorn protects it and teaches with sharp pain
To handle with a gentle hand Your blessings freely gained,
The rain clouds which surround me hold Your teardrops of love,
Shed for my sin, but always with Your rainbow up above,
And my prayers as yet unanswered keep me waiting for You,
You whisper, "Be still and know that I am God," so what more can I do?
So thank You, Father, for the thorn, Your silence and the rain,
For when You ease my aching heart, I understand the pain,
Lord, keep me mindful of these things when trouble comes along,
For it's when I am my weakest, that in You I am made strong.

— Ginny Hughlett, Pontotoc

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Thanksgiving — now and always

Thanksgiving is an American holiday. Its concept goes all the way back to our earliest settlers who paused in their day-to-day living to give thanks for their survival in a new and possibly hostile environment.

They gave thanks to a beneficent Heavenly Father for his protection in a land far from their homes.

It is a religious holiday.

A great deal of our interest on Thanksgiving centers around a heavily laden table and traditional football games. Of course, we might as well be watching football games. After having stayed at the table long enough to do justice to all of the preparation, we

wouldn't be in shape to do much else.

Surely there is nothing wrong with laden tables and football games. A great deal of the time we are with family members whom we wouldn't be seeing otherwise.

That is fine.

There is nothing to tell us that we are bound to be thankful on Thanksgiving Day. We must be thankful, however, or our thanksgiving is ineffective.

On the other hand, there is no reason to feel that thanksgiving is appropriate only on Thanksgiving Day. The day, however, provides a reminder that thanksgiving is an ap-

propriate response for the blessings that we have enjoyed.

Most of us have a great deal for which to be thankful. Those of us who feel we have nothing for which to be thankful very likely have neglected to be attuned to the Lord who is the author of all blessings.

So on Thanksgiving Day it behooves us to be thankful. If we cannot be, we must look within ourselves for the cause.

Thanksgiving is a time to be thankful, as we should be every day of the year; or we should find out why not.

"That all may hear"

November 29 to December 6 is our annual time for foreign missions emphasis. It is first of all the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions. Then, as a corollary, it is also the time for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions.

The theme for the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions is "Pray . . . that all may hear."

The greatest need on the mission field is prayer. Missionaries dwell on this over and over as they fill speaking engagements throughout the nation while they are on furlough. Their correspondence is to a great extent expressions of appreciation for prayer.

They declare without exception that the week of prayer and their birthday prayer dates are the most meaningful times in their ministry. Therefore, the prayer aspect of this annual occasion must not be forgotten.

While missionaries dwell on the

prayer aspect of the annual emphasis, the rest of us seem to get caught up in the financial considerations. And surely they are highly important. The funds from the Lottie Moon Offering make up about half of the annual Foreign Mission Board budget.

The goal for this year is \$75 million dollars.

This is not a dreamed up figure pulled out of the skies. A 40-page report from the Foreign Mission Board details all of the specifics of the allocations to be made from the Lottie Moon receipts. The budget process begins with requests from missionaries on the field and is completed by the Foreign Mission Board doing the best it can to honor those requests in a budget figure thought to be what is to be expected from Southern Baptist churches.

Let these lines serve as a reminder that the funds from the Lottie Moon

Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions are desperately needed in our effort to spread the gospel around the world.

The one thing that the Southern Baptist Convention was organized to accomplish was to carry out the Great Commission. The Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions are major factors in our design for doing that.

The offering was named for that earlier missionary to China who literally gave her life to missions. She died on Christmas Eve on a ship anchored in Kobe harbor in Japan as she was on her way home after giving her food and her health in ministry to Chinese people.

It is fitting that she should be honored by the naming of the offering for her. We can strengthen her memory by praying and giving generously.



Status quo mindset stifles growth

By Frank Wm. White

NASHVILLE (BP) — A status quo mindset could be the greatest barrier to growth in the Southern Baptist Convention because it creates an unwillingness to reach out to others, the leader of Southern Baptist Sunday School work charged.

One of the most crucial indicators of satisfaction with the status quo is a decline in the number of new Sunday Schools started during the past year, said Harry Piland, director of the Sunday School division at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Southern Baptists started 826 new Sunday Schools during the 1986-87

church year, which ended Sept. 30. The total is down from the 944 starts of the previous year and falls short of the goal of 1,400. Mississippi began seven.

Historically, new churches begin from a new Sunday School work or a mission point that has a Sunday School early in its development, he pointed out.

The need to reach people who are not attending any church and would likely not attend a larger, established church is a more critical reason for starting Sunday Schools, Piland explained. "Every record we have shows that new work grows faster than established work," he said.

Guest opinion . . .

Prayer: The weapon for winning the world

By Linda Rice

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — We as missionaries and national believers in Uganda know something about weapons and wars. It has to do with eight changes of government since 1979.

Pastor Deo Mawano thought he'd been shot in the head early one morning as he walked to work. Actually, it was only the noise and vibrations of a mortar being fired over his head. That same mortar made waves in our water bed.

I have faced four AK47 automatic guns pointed at me through my windshield. Quickly recognizing my vulnerability and their intention to steal my car, I got out and gave it to them. Weapons and wars — we have experienced them.

"Pray That All May Hear" is the theme for this year's Week of Prayer

for Foreign Missions. I recognize that, too. It is a call to arms — a cry for the battle to intensify. It is a warfare that is far more significant than Uganda's coups, using weapons that are far more powerful than any AK47 or mortar.

"For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God," (II Corinthians 10:4-5 NAS). The 1987 Week of Prayer then is right on target.

Prayer is our weapon; we all need to assent to that. But, what do we do with it? We are meticulous in assembling and disassembling it for the purpose of cleaning and polishing. Strategic arms talks are given quality time and resources.

But how often do we actually fire the weapon? And when we do fire — at times with the wrong ammunition — we expend its power on lesser skirmishes. The enemy is good at setting out decoys and distractions to deflect and diminish the full potential of our weapons. Pray that all may hear!

We in Uganda know something about spiritual weapons and warfare. Kampala Baptist Church members with a thousand and one other needs spend nights in fervent prayer for spiritual awakening. They have been watching as attendance and giving dramatically increase, looking as a weeping woman comes for salvation before a sermon is even preached, rejoicing as the church moves back on course — dead center on exalting Jesus. Victory comes through prayer.

The Lango Baptist Association

pastors say they have won the victory. They've learned how to deal with witchcraft, an enemy so ugly and potent that it killed four children of a deacon. This was before the deacon's wife was saved and before the believers learned to effectively wield the weapon of prayer. Their freedom from this bondage is noticed in the district. Pray that all may hear!

Most of the world is in spiritual bondage. Many are in countries closed to the gospel. Famine, disease, oppression, and wars cut time short. But our weapon — prayer — is long range and able to penetrate any bondage. It requires no further testing or refining. It needs only to be aimed and used. Pray that the mystery of the gospel be made known with boldness.

My daughter Kristen sings, "My

God is so big, so strong and so mighty, there is nothing he cannot do." But he waits for his people to pray to release his power.

Pastor Mawano speaks of the time when we come to the end of the war and all gather for the victory celebration. He wonders, as we turn in our battle fatigues and armor, how many of us will hear, "What! This weapon has never been fired. Where have you been?"

Let us set out, as Joshua did (5:13-15), to see the captain of the hosts of the Lord. Let us, like him, fall down on our faces in worship, submission, holiness, and intercession. Then the walls of many Jerichos around the world will fall.

Linda Rice has been a Southern Baptist missionary to Uganda since 1974.

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JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Published Since 1877

Mission leaders warn of disturbing trends

By Susan Todd

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — If trends continue at the present rate, by the year 2000, foreign governments will deny missionaries the opportunity to witness to 83 percent of the world's lost.

Already, doors are closing daily because of political and religious influences. Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board leaders believe it to be more important than ever to witness today in every possible place.

In 1900, most all countries were open to Southern Baptist missionaries. But today, more than 60 countries out of 250 are closed to them. Projections for the year 2000 indicate that 100 countries out of those 250 will deny visas to Southern Baptist missionaries.

Southern Baptist leaders realize that the strategy that works for missionaries today in open countries won't work tomorrow in those closing countries. Things will have to change.

Anticipating that change, Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, said, "We can't depend on being bigger and better to evangelize the world. We've got to become more creative."

One of the first areas in which foreign mission leaders have become more creative is in ways of sending

missionaries. The opportunities for the traditional career missionary to enter new countries are becoming more limited. So, along with sending missionaries into receptive countries, the Foreign Mission Board is exploring new ways to get into closing countries.

This new missionary-sending approach is different from old approaches because it focuses on professional skills rather than traditional Christian vocational skills. These persons are entering countries to work in such positions as teachers, technologists and health-care workers — and they are classified as such, not as missionaries.

As these Christians become established in their professional fields, they are able to live out a Christian witness before their co-workers and others with whom they come in contact.

Parks cited the need for more persons to consider this type of involvement. "It would make a great contribution," he said.

The Foreign Mission Board would like to see more and more Christians planting their lives in overseas commitments. "More volunteers encourage more missionaries, and more missionaries encourage more

volunteers," said Parks. "We are finding more former volunteers in every missionary appointment service."

Another new missionary-sending approach focused on diplomats. The Foreign Mission Board has sent persons to cities where there are large diplomatic communities. Their jobs have been to build bridges, gain the confidence of diplomats and help them to know the services Southern Baptists have to offer to their countries.

Foreign Mission Board leaders believe that in the future, because of the bridges which will have been built, Southern Baptists may have a better opportunity to enter countries that are now closed.

Still another way of getting a Christian witness into restricted-access countries involves Christians from foreign countries. In June 1985, the Foreign Mission Board convened 43 persons from 21 countries to focus on world evangelization. They were encouraged to partner with the Foreign Mission Board in world evangelization. For some of those 21 countries it was a plea to continue existing partnerships.

Many countries are responding. From 17 foreign conventions and

(Continued on page 4)



Donald and Marinell Carrothers

HMB appoints missionaries to serve in Utah

Donald and Marinell Carrothers of Haslet, Texas, have been named church planter apprentices for service in Utah by directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

Carrothers, 28, a native of Mississippi, will be church planter apprentice in Spanish Fork, Utah. He currently works as a teacher in Keller, Texas. He has previously done summer youth work in Texas and New Mexico.

Marinell Carrothers, a native of Alabama, was appointed for church and family work by the board. Presently a homemaker, she has been a social worker for the state of Mississippi and the World Relief Corporation in Texas.

They will be serving as joint employees of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention and the Home Mission Board.

Reagan sends porn bill to Congress

By Tim Fields

WASHINGTON (BP) — President Ronald Reagan has announced he is sending to Congress a legislative proposal to combat child pornography and obscenity in the United States.

Reagan made the announcement Nov. 10 at the close of a White House briefing with anti-pornography activists including N. Larry Baker, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Baker, a member of the executive committee of the Religious Alliance Against Pornography, attended the briefing along with other RAAP representatives. RAAP is a coalition of religious leaders representing a broad spectrum of denominations that focus their attention on fighting hardcore and child pornography.

Reagan said the bill, known as the Child Protection and Obscenity Enforcement Act of 1987, has a two-fold purpose: "The first is to update the law to take into account technologies newly utilized by the pornography industry; and second to remove loopholes and weaknesses in existing federal law, which have given criminals in this area the upper hand for too long."

This bill represents one point of a seven-point plan created by Attorney General Edwin Meese to crack down heavily on the producers, distributors and retailers of obscene material.

"Neither our Constitution, our courts, our people, nor our respect for common decency and human suffering should allow the trafficking in obscene materials — which exploits women, children, and men alike — to continue."

This administration is putting the

(Continued on page 4)

National Missions Prayer Plan to be launched Nov. 29

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Five Southern Baptist agencies are joining together to launch the "National Missions Prayer Plan" in Southern Baptist churches Nov. 29-Dec. 6.

The plan is designed to enlist each church member to commit to pray

daily for missions through September 1990. Church members will be asked to sign a card to register their commitments.

The Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Sunday School Board, Brotherhood Commission and

Woman's Missionary Union banded together in this project to signify the importance of prayer in reaching the goals of Bold Mission Thrust, according to Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of WMU.

Bold Mission Thrust is Southern Baptists' plan to do their part to share the gospel with every person in the world by the year 2000.

Mission leaders have identified the crucial need for more Southern Baptists to become serious about praying for missions. They have said the goals of Bold Mission Thrust will not be reached by the year 2000 unless con-

certed efforts in prayer begin today.

One goal of the National Missions Prayer Plan is to instill in individual church members the habit of praying daily for missions for the next three years. But according to Weatherford, "I believe it will continue far beyond that date, for the goal should be a lifelong goal for churches."

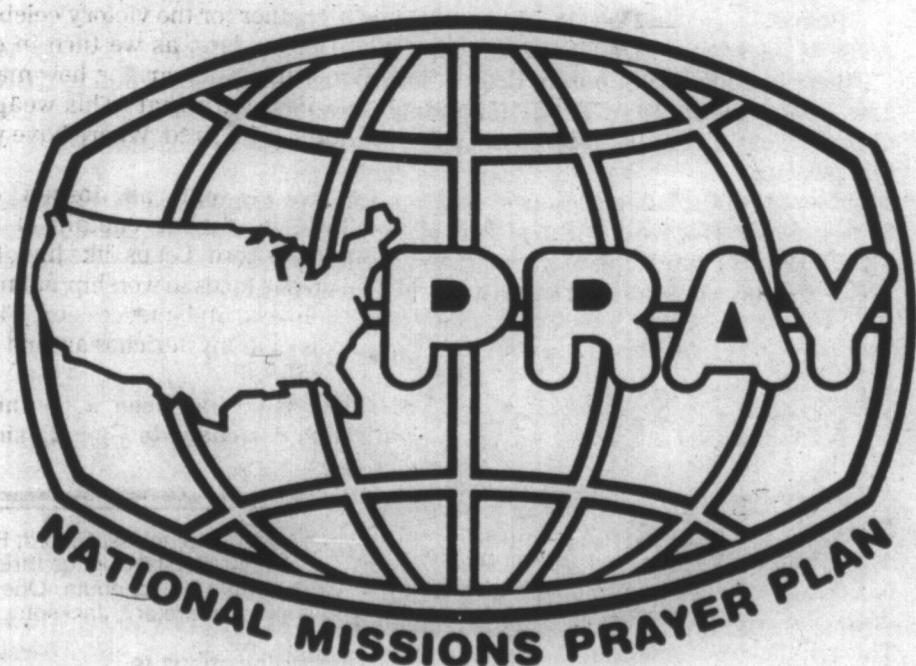
During the National Missions Prayer Plan launch, church WMU and Brotherhood directors will lead their churches to become more aware of prayer needs. Church members of every age will be asked to participate.

After commitment cards are sign-

ed, church WMU and Brotherhood directors will report to state offices the number of commitments made during the week. State papers have been asked to keep readers updated on state involvement.

Resources giving prayer needs will be made available to those who make commitments. Southern Baptist periodicals, newspapers, newscasts and toll-free prayer lines will include current prayer requests during the next three years.

For more information about the National Missions Prayer Plan, contact the state WMU or Brotherhood office.



Gutenberg Bible sells for twice record price

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP) — A Gutenberg Bible, printed in 1455 in Mainz, Germany, was sold at an auction October 22 for more than twice the record price for a printed book. The Bible is one of 48 surviving of the 185 believed to have been printed partly by Johannes Gutenberg.

Johannes Gutenberg, a German printer who was born sometime

around 1400, is credited with inventing the first printing press with moveable type. The Gutenberg Bibles were the first books printed from his presses and paved the way for mass communication. The Bibles, the first large books printed on the press, were an edition of the Vulgate.

The Gutenberg Bible is in pristine condition, according to Christie's auc-

tion house, in charge of the auction of more than 130 printed books from the 15th century. The pages are clean, and are bound in their original binding. The Bible is the first volume of a two volume set, and includes Genesis through Psalms of the Old Testament. The second volume in the set is not believed to have survived.

The buyer was Maruzen Co. Ltd. of

(Continued on page 4)

Mission leaders warn of disturbing trends

(Continued from page 3)

unions, 250 Baptists have gone as foreign missionaries. Brazil, with more than 100 missionaries in about 20 countries, is leading the way.

Other countries are realizing and accepting their responsibilities in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with a lost world.

But, that responsibility cannot be one-sided, Parks said. "Individual Christians and local churches must accept the fact that we are all responsible for reaching the world. We have a tendency to get caught up in local circles to the point that we forget that the kingdom of God is worldwide."

Evangelizing the worldwide kingdom of God has been a point of intense research and planning at the Foreign Mission Board. More than 10,800 groups of people have been identified as never having had the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel.

Many of these people are in the 60-plus restricted-access nations of the world.

Some are restricted because of politics, with others restricted because of religion. These areas are the ones where finding creative ways of sharing the gospel becomes absolutely necessary, according to Clark Scanlon, director of research and planning for the Foreign Mission Board.

"We've moved beyond rhetoric and

preaching to specific steps in making this become a reality," says Scanlon.

But carrying out these creative plans of sharing the gospel with more than 2.4 billion people is costly. And it becomes increasingly so.

Today, it costs about \$23,000 a year to support a foreign missionary. Calculated at an increase of an estimated 5 percent inflation rate per year, Scanlon projects that it will cost \$37,950 to support a missionary by the year 2000.

This rising cost makes meeting this year's \$75 million Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal crucial. It was lowered in April 1987 from \$81 million because the 1986 goal fell more than \$5 million short of the 1986 \$75 million goal.

Because the Foreign Mission Board allocates every penny of each year's goal, even the \$75 million will not be enough to meet the needs. The difference of \$6 million will mean that needs will go unmet on foreign mission fields. Some creative approaches to sharing the gospel will have to be delayed.

But those delays could be avoided if individuals would re-examine their priorities, Parks said. "The average church spends 92 percent of its budget locally," he said. "It's contrary to the Bible and to Christ's teachings."

"Once we give to our churches, we seem to believe that sanctifies the money. We add luxuries to our

facilities. We need to re-examine. We have allowed our culture to dominate our gospel rather than our gospel to dominate our culture.

"There's a world out there and it is going to hell while we spend our money on ourselves.

"Apparently Southern Baptists haven't decided they are willing to pay the price of Bold Mission Thrust."

Bold Mission Thrust, Southern Baptists' plan to do their part to share the gospel with everyone in the world by the year 2000, is a costly plan. But as costly and important as money and strategy are to the plan, the call to prayer is even more so.

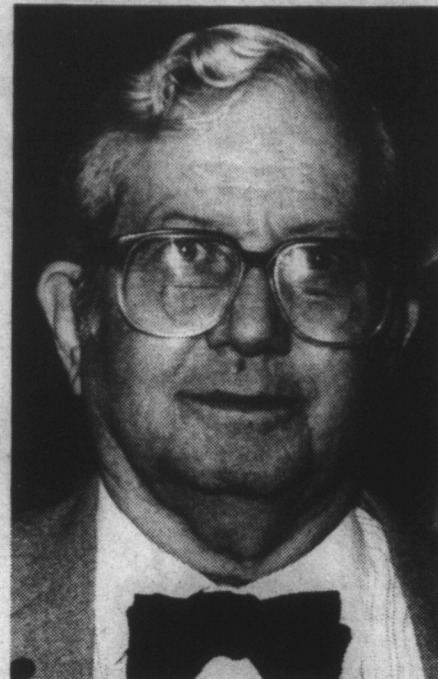
"Prayer is our most crucial strategy and is the only strategy in some cases," said Parks.

Prayer becomes Southern Baptists' sole channel where countries restrict the entry of missionaries, where visas are denied to professionals seeking job opportunities and where tourism is restricted.

The Foreign Mission Board is encouraging individuals and churches to become involved on a regular basis to pray specifically for restricted countries and restricted groups of people.

The Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions, Nov. 29 through Dec. 6, provides a one-time opportunity for Southern Baptists to join together in their prayer efforts.

Susan Todd writes for WMU, SBC.



C. B. Hamlet III, attended his 50th consecutive meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention this year.

Hispanics form group

ATLANTA (BP) — Hispanic Baptist leaders from across the nation have formed a fellowship to bring the nation's largest ethnic group into the mainstream of Southern Baptist life.

Known as the Southern Baptist Hispanic Ministers Conference, the new organization will encourage Hispanics to take more active roles in Baptist associations and state conventions. A second priority will be for the ministers to lead their churches to increased giving to the denomination's Cooperative Program unified budget.

Membership will not be limited to pastors but will include all Hispanic ministers. A \$12 annual membership fee will cover start-up costs and future mailings to the members.

Convention excerpts will air on ACTS

Highlights of the 152nd Session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention will be shown on a number of ACTS and other church television cable systems throughout the state during the week of Dec. 1-11.

The highlights videotape will feature excerpts from much of the convention music including choirs from First Church, Biloxi; First Church, Brookhaven; First Church, Jackson; and First Church Hattiesburg. Special features include the Mississippi Singing Churchmen, and Charlie Ray, First Church, Hattiesburg.

Many of the messages preached at the convention will be highlighted including Earl Kelly, Richard Jackson, Robert Hamblin, Frank Gunn, Robert Self and the Bible Treasure feature with Brian Harbour.

Other highlights are the Mississippi Mission Report by Harry Vickery, First Church, Greenville; the WMU Centennial with Marjean Patterson and Edwina Robinson; and the Bold New Growth — Mississippi testimonies.

The Department of Broadcast Services, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, produced the 58-minute videotape.

"If other churches in the state have access to a cable channel, the Broadcast Services Department will be glad to loan them the three-quarter-inch videotape for broadcast," said Farrell Blankenship, Department director. Producer of the Videotape was Farrell Blankenship, and Ken Anderson, Capitol Productions of Jackson was technical director.

Those churches and television stations scheduled to run this highlights tape of the 152nd Session of the Mississippi Baptist convention are as follows:

City	Date	Time	Cable Channel
Delta Acts Board	Dec. 6	6-7 pm	Warner Amex Cable Ch 10
Cleveland	Dec. 10	7-8 pm	
First Church	Dec. 8	9-10 pm	Warner Amex Cable Ch 10
Yazoo City	Dec. 11	8-9 pm	
ACTS of Laurel	Nov. 25	8-9 pm	Comcast Cablevision Ch 18
	Nov. 26	11-12 Noon	
	Nov. 27	6:30-7:30 pm	
ACTS of Lauderdale	Dec. 7	6:30-7:30 pm	Comcast Cable Ch 11
Meridian	Dec. 10	6:30-7:00 pm	
Cable 6 (FBC)	Dec. 6	5-6 pm	U.A. Cablevision Ch 6
Hattiesburg	Dec. 9	9:30-10:30 am	
Lebanon ACTS Board	Dec. 11	9:30-10:30 a.m.	
ACTS of Jackson	Dec. 1	6:30-7:30 pm	Capitol Cablevision Ch. 14

Others include First Church, Bruce (Walco/Bruce Cable-Ch 8 and WO7BN Low Power TV-Ch 7) ACTS of Hollandale (Broadband Cable-Ch 17) First Church, New Albany (Cablevision-Ch 8); whose dates are not known as of this printing.

Videotape of the Bible Treasures and Convention sermons will be available on ½-inch VHS for loan by the middle of December. In addition the Convention Highlights videotape mentioned above will be available also on ½-inch VHS for loan. Contact the Department of Broadcast Services.

Committee on Committees 1988

President Frank Gunn on Monday evening during the recent Mississippi Baptist Convention named the 1988 Committee on Committees:

Rex Yancey, chairman, First Church, Quitman; Gene A. Triggs Sr., Yazoo City; Mrs. Carolyn Kee, Woodville; Julian W. Fagan III, First Church, Pontotoc; and Ervin Brown, Hernando.

Reagan launches pornography bill for Congress' consideration

(Continued from page 3)

purveyors of illegal obscenity and child pornography on notice: Your industry's days are numbered."

The bill contains the 11 proposals related to child pornography, obscenity provisions and child protection amendments:

— Prohibit use of computers to advertise, distribute, or receive child pornography.

— Prohibit a parent or legal guardian of a minor from selling the minor or assigning legal custody of a minor for the production of pornography.

— Require producers and certain distributors of pornography to create and maintain verifiable records as to age and identity of each performer appearing in depictions of "actual sexually explicit conduct."

— Make child pornography violations an offense under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations statute, which would allow seizure and forfeiture of assets attributable to profits derived from the offense.

— Establish a new criminal offense that would prohibit the receipt or possession of obscene material with intent to sell or distribute.

— Expand scope of current law that prohibits use of a facility or means of interstate commerce to transport

obscenity so a prosecutor would only be required to prove a means, such as a truck or plane was used to transport the material, not that the defendant actually transported it.

— Permit both civil and criminal forfeitures to allow the government to seize assets used to make profits obtained through violations of obscenity laws.

— Make possession or selling obscene visual depictions or child pornography on federal property, including military bases, a criminal offense.

— Add felony obscenity offenses to the list of offenses for which the government would be authorized to seek court orders allowing wiretaps.

— Make use of obscene language or distribution of obscene matter by cable television or other subscription television services a criminal offense.

— Prohibit making of obscene phone calls for commercial purposes to any person, regardless of age, regardless of whether the maker of the communication placed the call and regardless of whether the communication was made directly or by a recording device.

Reagan said one of the most serious obscenity problems is dial-a-porn: "This bill will provide prosecutors

with a powerful weapon to attack the so-called dial-a-porn business that profits from obscenity.

"I have read statistics that one company has received up to 800,000 calls a day and 180 million calls in a single year, and law enforcement officials have estimated that a great number of these calls are made by children.

"This bill offers Southern Baptists a door of opportunity," said Baker. "Letters, calls and telegrams to United States senators and representatives from hosts of our people will encourage our elected leaders to move swiftly and forcefully to deal with hardcore and child pornography."

Tim Fields writes for the Christian Life Commission.

Gutenberg Bible sold. . .

(Continued from page 3)

Tokyo, Japan's largest bookseller, who paid \$5.39 million for the Bible. The previous record price for a printed book sold at auction was \$2.2 million when another Gutenberg Bible was sold in 1978.

All 130 books were collected and

donated to the Catholic church, seminaries, and other charities by the late Estelle Doheny, wife of the late California oil king Edward Doheny. The archdiocese is selling the books to fund a program to increase enrollment in Catholic seminaries.



Singing Churchmen



Charlie Ray

Convention honors Charles Pickering

In appreciation for Charles Pickering's contributions as member of the SBC Peace Committee and as a former president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, a certificate was presented to him during the Mississippi Convention. In part, it said:

Mississippi Baptists here and now say thank you to Charles Pickering for his leadership in the instigation and continuation of the Peace Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention; for his outstanding service as our state convention president; and for his influential role as a Christian attorney who has touched many lives.

His belief in the power of prayer is a thread that has shone through the fabric of all that he has done. When controversies within the Southern Baptist Convention escalated in early 1985, he invited a group of Mississippi Baptist leaders — "both sides and no sides" — to his Jones County farm to pray together. His calls to other state convention presidents resulted in their gathering for a prayer retreat. Thus, he was instrumental in the organization of the State Convention Presidents' Fellowship.

This group of presidents chose Charles Pickering as one of a seven-member task force to draft a recommendation that a special solution-seeking committee be formed.

When the Southern Baptist Convention elected the 22-member Peace Committee in Dallas in 1985, Pickering was named as the committee's vice-chairman. With fairness and faithfulness, integrity, and persistence, he has represented us there.

He has not asked Southern Baptists to exhibit attitudes not displayed in his own life. A Christian since the age of 8, he is a deacon at First Baptist

Church, Laurel. His father and grandfather were deacons at Hebron Baptist Church, Jones County. He married Ann Thomas, the daughter of his high school principal; they are the parents of four children.

Hard-working, he drove a school (Continued on page 7)

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Convention music

(Tim Nicholas Photos)



First Church, Jackson, Choir



First Church, Hattiesburg, Choir



First Church, McComb, Choir

Devotional

Choose yourself a psalm

By Fanny Cothran

Have you ever noticed that it is impossible to complain and praise at the same time? Complaining is inconsistent with praise. Perhaps this is why the psalmist encourages us to, "Praise the Lord."

Another admonition from the Psalms is, "to thank the Lord." Over and over we're reminded to "be thankful." How exciting life becomes when we learn to be thankful every day of our lives. Who has more to be thankful for than those of us who have been adopted into the family of God? An omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient God is our Father. Before Jesus gave the command to go, he reminded us that all power is his in heaven and earth. Since he abides in us, may we not conclude that that power abides in us? Think of it, the omnipotent God in us!

Jesus also told us that he could never leave us alone. He is ever present to precede, to protect, to provide. We cannot go so high, nor so low, nor so far that his presence can be escaped. We can shout with Paul: "There is nothing in heaven above nor earth below to separate us from the love of God."

Just to think that the wisdom unsearchable is ours. Our omniscient father said all we have to do is ask. Our Father knows all that has been, all that is, and all that is to be. He's never caught off guard. We can rest secure; our watchman God sees and knows all.

So often we remember to be thankful for country, home and families, and jobs and friends. Surely we should be grateful for these earthly blessings. These earthly things may change and we experience them in varying degrees, but the heart that is thankful for an omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient Father will always find ample reason for Thanksgiving. If you don't have the words to express your thanks, choose yourself a psalm.

Fanny Cothran is mayor of Lexington and a member of First Church, Lexington.

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Ray Walker is the bass for the internationally known *Jordanaires* quartet. They do back-up work on recordings for major artists, and their voices have been heard on over 3 billion record sales. The *Jordanaires* have placed in the top ten vocal groups in the world for many years. At a seemingly inexhaustible pace, Ray works with youth groups, troubled parents as a counselor, youth seminars and college campuses as a speaker and Christian entertainer. He was named the "Best TV ad personality" by Nashville Magazine for many years. Ray and his wife, Marilyn, have six children and have been foster parents to 31 other children who have lived in their Nashville home.

"MY GOD AND I"

- HE
- DO YOU KNOW THE SONG?
- THE END OF THE WAY
- THE LAST MILE OF THE WAY
- THANK GOD FOR JESUS HE'S MINE
- JESUS TOOK MY BURDEN
- MY GOD IS REAL
- HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?
- SING AND BE HAPPY

- I LOVE THE LORD
- MY GOD AND I
- I'D RATHER HAVE JESUS
- PUT YOUR HAND IN THE HAND
- THE HALF I CANNOT TELL
- THE HALF HAS NEVER BEEN TOLD
- SING OH SING HIS PRAISES
- I'LL BE SOMEWHERE LISTENING
- OH, I WANT TO SEE HIM

"IT IS NO SECRET WHAT GOD CAN DO"

- IT IS NO SECRET WHAT GOD CAN DO
- THERE IS A BALM IN GILEAD
- TAKE MY HAND PRECIOUS LORD
- WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN
- I WANT TO KNOW
- BECAUSE HE LIVES
- AMAZING GRACE
- HE SET ME FREE
- BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

- THIS OLD HOUSE
- PEACE IN THE VALLEY
- HOW GREAT THOU ART
- WHERE COULD I GO?
- JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE
- HE'LL UNDERSTAND AND SAY "WELL DONE"
- PRECIOUS MEMORIES
- WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN

"WONDERFUL WORDS OF LIFE"

- TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE
- WONDERFUL WORDS OF LIFE
- SONG OF WONDERFUL LOVE
(Wonderful, Wonderful)
- EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING
- WE HAVE AN ANCHOR
- AM I NEARER TO HEAVEN TODAY
- WILL THERE BE ANY STARS
- FROM THE CROSS TO THE CROWN
- I'LL LIVE IN GLORY
- I'LL LIVE ON

- UPON THE BANKS OF JORDAN STOOD
(All parts sung by Ray Walker)
- THERE IS A FOUNTAIN
- GLORY FOR ME
- BECAUSE HE LIVES
- JESUS IS ALL THE WORLD TO ME
- WHERE THE ROSES NEVER FADE
- SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY
- HEAVEN
- WHISPERING HOPE

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- ALL THE WAY MY SAVIOR LEADS ME
- A WONDERFUL SAVIOR
- JESUS IS TENDERLY CALLING
- I AM THINE, OH LORD
- HIDE ME, OH MY SAVIOR
- JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS
- TO THE WORK
- RESCUE THE PERISHING
- TO GOD BE THE GLORY
- CLOSE TO THEE
- PASS ME NOT
- HOLD THOU MY HAND
- TAKE THE WORLD, BUT GIVE ME JESUS

- I SHALL KNOW HIM
- REDEEMED
- WILL YOU COME?
- 'TIS THE BLESSED HOUR OF PRAYER
- WILL JESUS FIND US WATCHING?
- PRAISE HIM! PRAISE HIM!
- TELL ME THE STORY OF JESUS
- THOUGH YOUR SINS BE AS SCARLET
- SAFE IN THE ARMS OF JESUS
- THE HALF I CANNOT TELL
- SAVIOR, MORE THAN LIFE TO ME
- WELCOME FOR ME
- SPEED AWAY
- SOMEDAY THE SILVER CORD WILL BREAK

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SCRAPBOOK



NOVEMBER

Seasons of thanks

There are Seasons —
And reasons for all things
And Lord, we are thankful for life
For purpose, changing weather and rains.

We thank you for desirable comforts
That add much to our lives
And for all of earth's beauty
Which money never buys.

Thank you for friendships sacred
And the knowledge we're understood
And the returns for compassion
In seeing others as you would.

Good health and a good mind
Sometimes ruined by careless deeds
But when used for your divine purpose
Yields fruits to supply our needs.

For our country of freedom
Where Christian roots grow deep
To reach out to help our neighbor
For giving us strength when we are weak.

For our hopes and dreams of tomorrow
Keeping abreast our thanks for these
Then whatever fate is ours
We'll always trust you and believe.

Keep us near you through your word
That we may KNOW you and your will
And when we pray for your instruction
Let us LISTEN and be still.

—Ibera Garner
Jackson

A Thanksgiving prayer

Thank you, Father, this Thanksgiving Day,
for guiding us along life's way,
And thank you for your eternal love
and many blessings from above.
We are truly grateful for this day,
for freedom, the right to worship and to pray,
And we ask that we will ever faithful be,
for you and all the world to see.
Thank you for the joy this day will bring,
Thank you, God, for everything.

—Mary B. Barrett
Jackson



NASHVILLE — The Food Baskets — Thanksgiving is a celebration of a bountiful harvest, but for many in the world the food baskets remain empty (Photo by Mark Sandlin.)

Wild geese on a winter day

I could hear them in the morning
As we were rising for the day
They would make their honking sound
As they were winging on their way
I would always run outside
Just so I could see
Their beautiful formation
They made a perfect V
I would watch them until
They were specks up in the sky
I'd feel sad when they were gone
I don't remember why.
"It's going to turn cold," Papa would always say
Sure enough, you could count on it
Cold weather was on the way
Now when I'm reminiscing
Remembering a special day
I think about the wild geese
And the sky of winter grey.

—Ruth Norsworthy Crager
State Line

The hour is mine

The hours are running away,
and I chase them, I must catch them,
for oh, Lord, they are mine. I am thine.
Let me run with time as in flurries of snow.
All these hours I would know.
I would wrap them as gifts,
smooth all my self-made rifts
and give them back to God well used.

But look and you'll see me playing,
floating with the hours,
gathered bowers of flowers,
absorbing time, wasting time, mourning time.
So much to do in the hour of endeavor,
am I losing the hour forever?
No, I'm towing with the hour.
I'm walking with God in the hour,
skipping like a child to keep up,
for God gave me the hour,
and I thank Him.

—Violet Tackett, McComb

My thanks

I thank you, God,
On this Thanksgiving Day,
For the blessings I have
In every way.

The home where I live
The food that I eat,
The clothes I wear,
And the friends I greet.

The school I attend
Where democracy's taught.
And the hospital beds
Where the sick are brought.

The church where I worship
And learn about you
And all the things
You'd have me do. . .

—Mary Kathleen Ervin McLean

My thanks again

Father, my thanks again I offer Thee,
for courage that you give,
And for your loving pardon
that sets me free to live.
For mercy that you render,
for guidance on my way;
For blessed peace you offer
after a weary day.
And for your ever presence
each long and dreary mile,
You give so great a promise
in the sunshine of your smile.
For truth and for creation,
for home and so much more!
I offer up my praise to Thee,
this wealth at my heart's door.

—Velma A. Windham
Taylorsville

Pickering

(Continued from page 5)
bus during high school and college
days and toiled during summers on an
oil rig. He was graduated first in his
class from the University of
Mississippi's School of Law.

As Jones County's prosecuting at-
torney in the early 1960's, he showed
courage in trying tough cases in a
time of racial strife. As state senator
from 1972 until 1980, he founded
Mississippi's modern-day Republican
Party.

Solid. Meticulous. Committed.
These words have been applied to
Charles Pickering, a man who is not
afraid to take a stand for what he
thinks is right.

We hereby seek to express apprecia-
tion to one who is a peacemaker and
who in his dealings with others
reflects the love of Christ.

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

It is good to say 'Thank you'

I am grateful this morning for the
little extras of daily existence — for
the hot water that pours into the
bathtub when I turn the tap, for the
taste of a bowl of oatmeal for
breakfast, for the wet smell of fallen
leaves after a rain, for the sight of a
pink sky at evening, for the touch of
a baby's trusting fingers, for the sound
of a choir singing, "Great Is Thy
Faithfulness, Lord, Unto Me."

Last Sunday we studied God's cove-
nant with Abraham, promising to
bless him. Alice Smith, our teacher,
asked, "What has God done for you?"
and added, "Count your blessings."
Again, as many times this year, the
thought came to me: "What a bless-
ing it is to have Christian friends like
those in this class and those at work
and those who are Record readers
who stand by and pray for you in
times when you need them. How
hopeless the world would look if I had
no Christian brothers and sisters to
show they care when crises come!"

Jean Jacobs, missionary to
Trinidad, expressed my own feelings
in a letter she wrote recently, when
she said, "This is the year when
'Praise the Lord' must echo and re-
echo heavenward and be carried over

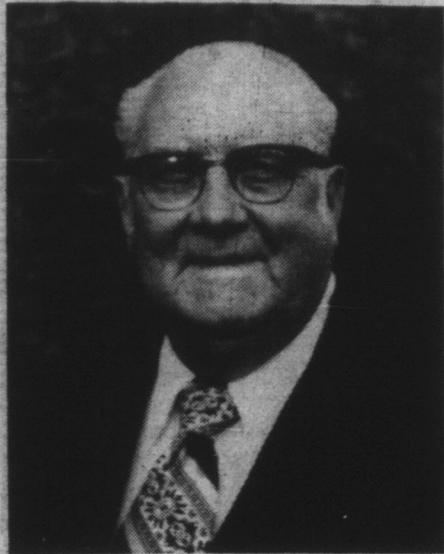
into 1988. Hasn't God been good to all
of us?"

Jean and John are living now at 520
Magazine St., Tupelo. They had ex-
pected this to be their last full year on
the field before final furlough and
then retirement. However, they came
earlier than planned, on medical
furlough. Cancer was discovered in
John during April in a check-up in
Miami. Chemo and radiation therapy
was carried out at the Baptist
Hospital in Memphis. This, plus
prayer, has resulted, Jean said, in an
"all clear" for him. They will continue
on medical leave until retirement next
April.

"We will remember 1987 as a year
of definite, unique, and specific
answer to prayer," she said. And so
will I. God has answered many
prayers in our family this year. My
heart spills over with gratitude to Him
that W.D. is with me to celebrate this
Thanksgiving and that he too was
given an "all clear," after a close
brush with death last December.

It is good to say, 'Thank you' to the
Lord, to sing praises to the God who
is above all gods. Every morning tell
him, 'Thank you for your kindness,'
and every evening rejoice in all his
faithfulness (Psalm 92:1, 2 LB).

Strayhorn honors Howe on 50th anniversary



Claude Howe Sr.

Between the time of his ordination in October, 1937 and now, Claude Howe Sr., has served almost 30 churches.

One of those churches, Strayhorn, in Tate County, baptized him, ordained him, and there he served as its pastor in the early days of his ministry.

Last month, Strayhorn honored him on his 50th anniversary in the ministry on the church's homecoming day.

In the bulletin for that day, Howe offered comments on his life. He wrote:

"My favorite scripture: Rev. 3:20. Behold I stand at the door and knock. If any man will hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and sup with him and he with me."

"My greatest blessing: The opportunity to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ for 50 years under God's leadership.

"My greatest burden: The loss of my beloved wife, Leona.

"My favorite sermon: The church that made God sick.

"My greatest regret: The fact that I had threatened an unruly deacon. A pastor should never do this.

"My advice to young preachers: Seek God's will and not your own."

Howe was born at Strayhorn in 1905 and he and his wife Leona Rutledge had one son, Claude Howe Jr., who has taught at New Orleans Seminary for 28 years.

These are Howe's pastorates: Antioch, Rankin; Askew, Panola; Bethel, Yalobusha; Cedar Bluff, Clay; Courtland, Panola; Crossroads, Rankin; Curtis, Panola; Ebenezer, Tate; Enon, Panola; Friendship, Marianna, Ark.; Flag Lake, Tate; Good Hope, Panola; Gray's Creek, Panola; Highland, Tate; Linn, Sunflower; Longtown, Tate; Locke Station, Panola; Phillip, Tallahatchie; Pilgrim's Rest, Panola; Siloam, Clay; Strayhorn, Tate; Surgis, Oktibbeha; Shady Grove, Panola; Tocowa, Panola; Tyro, Tate; and West Drew, Sunflower.

Interims since retirement include Hebron, Panola; Camp Ground, Yalobusha; and Sardis First and Peach Creek, both in Panola.

Thursday, November 26, 1987

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Staff Changes

Sanford G. (Sandy) Sherman has accepted a call as pastor of Emmanuel Church, Ocean Springs, effective Nov. 1.

Sherman, 30, goes to Emmanuel from Husser, La., where he pastored New Sharon Church for the past three years.

He and his wife, the former Pamela Arline Miller, are the parents of a 14-month-old daughter, Candice Marie.

He holds a master of divinity from New Orleans Seminary and is currently working toward his master of religious education at the seminary. He holds a bachelor of arts from Southeastern Louisiana University.

Allen Webb will be serving as the interim director of missions for Jackson Association. He may be reached at the associational office or at his home address; 4008 South Shore, Pascagoula, 39567. His home telephone number is 762-5137.



Pourciau

Chuck Pourciau is the newly-called pastor of Centreville Church, Centreville. He and his wife, Tracy, and their daughters, Casey and Leigh, moved from Lewiston Church in Kentwood, La.

Steve Wilkinson has resigned as pastor of Northward Church, Gulf Coast. He is available for pulpit supply and interim work.

Lynda Strickland is the new director of kindergarten and day care at Bay Vista Church, Gulf Coast.

Revival Dates

Georgetown, Georgetown: 7 p.m.; Nov. 29-Dec. 2; dinner on the grounds after Sunday morning service; Danny Watkins, pastor of Shady Grove, Hazlehurst, evangelist; Scott Adkins, minister of music and youth at Georgetown Church, music; Joe Barber, pastor.

TOTAL CHURCH LIFE CONFERENCE December 7-8, 1987

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For information write Tom Larrimore, 3102 Monticello Dr., Jackson, MS 39212, or call 601-372-0132.



Darrell Robinson
Pastor
Dauphin Way
Baptist Church
Mobile, Alabama

MC announces "Pageant of Lights"

The Mississippi College Department of Music will help usher in the holiday season by presenting the third annual Christmas Pageant of Lights on Thursday, Dec. 3, in Provine Chapel.

This candlelight ceremony presents the music department performing ensembles together in a Christmas worship celebration. Works to be performed include Gloria by Antonio Vivaldi and Christmas Day by Gustav Holst. Concert time will be 8 p.m. Admission is free.

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HOLY LAND BIBLE TOUR — Depart April 19, 1988, 11 fascinating days, \$1198 from New York. Optional 3 days in Egypt. Contact: N. L. Stampley, 343 Elms Court Circle, Jackson, MS 39204, (601) 372-3845.

GROWING SUBURBAN CHURCH (3200 members) is taking applications for Church Administrator. Prefer person with management/administrative experience. Job involves personnel supervision, fiscal management, and facilities management. Send resumes to First Baptist Church, P. O. Box 988, Gardendale, AL 35071; (205) 631-8791.

Names in the News



Oct. 4 marked the 23rd anniversary of Wm. Gary Smith as pastor of the First Church of Carriere. The church presented him with a new Buick automobile. This is the sixth car the church has given him during his tenure. Presenting the keys and trophy are, respectively, deacon Durward Welch, chairman of the Board of Deacons; and Rance Cuevas, chairman of the Board of Directors of the "To Learn the Bible" television ministry, heard over Channel 13 from Biloxi Sunday mornings at 7:15 a.m. Left to right are Mrs. Neal Morehead, deacon Neal Morehead, who rode to Carriere with Smith 23 years ago, Welch, Mrs. Smith, William Gary Smith, Cuevas, deacon and Mrs. Thay Maddox, deacon Jeff Burke, Mrs. Rance Cuevas, and Mrs. and deacon Lee Carroll Pearson.

In an earlier dedication service the car keys were presented as an expression of love and appreciation to Smith's parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Smith of Bailey.

Mrs. Rebecca Hatten recently received a pin for 21 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School. She is a member of Carterville Church, Petal. Leland M. Hogan is pastor.

Hatten

DALLAS (BP) — J. Earl Mead, 95, thought to be the first full-time Southern Baptist minister of education, died Oct. 31 in Denton, Texas.

Mead, a native of Bolivar, Mo., was a minister of education for 43 years, including 36 years at Cliff Temple Church, Dallas. Other places of service include First Church, Beaumont, Texas, and First Church, Shreveport.



Immanuel Church, Columbus,

recently honored its pastor, Mike Stephens, with a surprise appreciation night. Stephens has been with the church for 10 years. Members of the congregation presented him with a number of tokens of their appreciation, ranging from a fireplace insert to written commendations. Pictured with Stephens is church member, Tom Harris.

Effective: October 11, 1987							
CT	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 ⁰⁰	Joy of Music Gloria	Country Crossroads	Country Crossroads	Great Churches of America (I)	In Concert	Great Churches of America (II)	Moody Science Sunday School
6 ⁰⁰	The Life Westbrook Hospital	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Davey and Gladys
7 ⁰⁰	First Love Wendell Eatop Chapel Lives	Time Timers Singshine Factory	Profiles Singshine Factory	Word of Life Singshine Factory	Praise Song Singshine Factory	Proclaim the Word Frank Pollard Singshine Factory	Singshine Factory Singshine Factory Singshine Factory
8 ⁰⁰	ACTS Methodist Ever	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Laguna	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Laguna	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Laguna	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Laguna	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Laguna	Long Ranger Cartoon Adventures of the Lone Ranger
9 ⁰⁰	Come Alive Religion Price	One in the Spirit Country Crossroads	Catch the Spirit Country Crossroads	This is the Life Great Churches of America (I)	Joy of Life Perry Sanders In Concert	Christian Lifestyle Happening Great Churches of America (II)	Popcorn Theater
10 ⁰⁰	Insight Catch the Spirit	Our World Today	What's Happening Today	What's Happening Today	What's Happening Today	What's Happening Today	Bill Cosby Show
11 ⁰⁰	Great Churches of America (I)	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Plant Groom Jimmy Houston Outdoors
12 ⁰⁰	The Baptist Hour	Time Timers Singshine Factory	Profiles Singshine Factory	Word of Life Singshine Factory	Praise Song Singshine Factory	Proclaim the Word Frank Pollard Singshine Factory	Outdoor Magazine Family Foundations
1 ⁰⁰	Sunday Selection	"	"	"	"	"	Moody Science Sunday School Lesson
2 ⁰⁰	"	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Davey and Gladys
3 ⁰⁰	Love Worth Pursuing Adrian Rogers	Psychiatry and You Singshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Singshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Singshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Singshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Singshine Factory	Singshine Factory Singshine Factory Singshine Factory
4 ⁰⁰	Joy of Music One in the Spirit	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Laguna	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Laguna	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Laguna	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Laguna	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Laguna	Long Ranger Cartoon Adventures of the Lone Ranger
5 ⁰⁰	Making Life Count Arthur Callandry This is the Life	Country Crossroads	Great Churches of America (I)	In Concert	Great Churches of America (II)	Country Crossroads	Popcorn Theater
6 ⁰⁰	Insight ACTS Methodist Ever	What's Happening Today	What's Happening Today	What's Happening Today	What's Happening Today	What's Happening Today	Bill Cosby Show
7 ⁰⁰	Gloria	Profiles Singshine Factory	Word of Life Singshine Factory	Praise Song Singshine Factory	Proclaim the Word Frank Pollard Singshine Factory	Praise Song Singshine Factory	Plant Groom Jimmy Houston Outdoors
8 ⁰⁰	Castle Hills Pulpit George Harris	Joy of Music Truth Alive Ron Harrod	Catch the Spirit Joy of Life Perry Sanders	For These Times Robert White	Invitation to Life	Strength for Life Ken Hemphill	Great Churches of America (II)
9 ⁰⁰	The Baptist Hour	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Moody Science Sunday School Lesson
10 ⁰⁰	Joy of Music Gloria	Eggsore Theatre	Eggsore Theatre	Eggsore Theatre	Eggsore Theatre	Eggsore Theatre	Davey and Gladys
11 ⁰⁰	The Life Sunday Selection	Country Crossroads	Great Churches of America (I)	In Concert	Great Churches of America (II)	Country Crossroads	Singshine Factory Singshine Factory Singshine Factory
12 ⁰⁰	"	What's Happening Today	What's Happening Today	What's Happening Today	What's Happening Today	What's Happening Today	Long Ranger Cartoon Adventures of the Lone Ranger
1 ⁰⁰	Proclaim the Word Frank Pollard Insight	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Popcorn Theater
2 ⁰⁰	ACTS Methodist Ever	Profiles Singshine Factory	Word of Life Singshine Factory	Praise Song Singshine Factory	Proclaim the Word Frank Pollard Singshine Factory	Praise Song Singshine Factory	Bill Cosby Show
3 ⁰⁰	Gloria	"	"	"	"	"	Plant Groom Jimmy Houston Outdoors
4 ⁰⁰	Sunday Selection	Eggsore Theatre	Eggsore Theatre	Eggsore Theatre	Eggsore Theatre	Eggsore Theatre	Outdoor Magazine Family Foundations

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Just for the Record

Carey plans Madrigal meal

The Winters School of Music of William Carey College will hold the 10th Annual Madrigal Christmas Dinner Dec. 3-5. There will be one performance each night at 7 p.m. in Smith Auditorium of the Thomas Fine Arts Center on the Hattiesburg campus.

The madrigal dinner is a Christmas celebration in the tradition of Old England. All costumes, song, dance, and food are styled after Elizabethan Christmases. Individuals are served at their tables set in a medieval dining hall while they are entertained by singing and dancing minstrels.

The proceeds from the dinner will be used by the Winters School of Music to purchase video equipment for the school's use.

Reservations must be made in advance. For ticket information call — (601) 582-6175 in Hattiesburg.



Highland Church, Vicksburg, recently recognized its GA and Mission Friends organizations. The theme of the program was "I'll Tell the World That I'm a Christian." William Patten is pastor.

Mission Friends, above, pictured, front row, are Amber Larson, Rachel Patten, Melanie Herrington, Jennifer Jennings, Jeffrey Gettinger, Ben Hugley, Mark Lee, Juan Saldana, Randy Miller, Telisha Saldana, back row, Esther Lee and Annette Miller, leaders.

GAs, grade 1-3, above right, front row, are Erin Loper, Carrie Handley, Brea Hugley, Mary Beth Forkner, Melissa Herrington, Whitney Richardson, Amber Miller, back row, Robin Herrington, leader.

GAs, grades 4-6, right, front row, are Alisa Jones, Amanda Jones, Christina Andrews, Amanda Richardson, Tanya Fife; middle row, Amanda Brown, Tara Hall, Betty Haynes, Bridgett Hugley, Maggie Brown; back row, Joy Anderson, Heather Handley, Amy Hanks, and Jackie Richardson, leader.



Acteens and Girls in Action in New Hope Church, Foxworth, had their recognition service on Sunday night, Sept. 27. The theme for the service was "Could I Be A Missionary?"

Pictured, Acteens, front row, are Jennifer Tullos, Julie Magee, Shelly Stringer, Kenyon White, Queen, Angie Lee, (back row) left to right, Jenny Magee, Tina Bennett, and Karen Pittman. Director is Susan Slocum and leader is Terry Pounds.

GAs, front row, are Donna Alexander, Stacey Pittman, Kim Lowery, Leigh Slocum, 2nd row, Melody Bennett, Kelly Turnage, Blake Slocum, Christie Emmler, April Stringer, Stephani Alexander, Jeannie Holmes, 3rd row, Julie Lowery, Brandie Magee, Cheree Stringer, and Tonya Emmler. Director is Beth Stringer and leader is Donna Stovall, Tommy King is interim pastor.



Wildwood Church in Clinton recently held a Woman's Missionary Union Centennial Celebration Dinner. Featured as the program was a look at fashions as they related to WMU history. Several of the young ladies of the church served as models.

Left to right, are Amy Peterson, Leiane Smith, Jenny Blackledge, Melissa Green, Kathy Womack, Michelle Barlow, and Nancy Kaye Bowman. Fred Womack is pastor.



"My Promise to God" was the theme for the GA recognition service held at Carterville Church, Petal. Thirty girls participated in the service and received their Missions Adventure badges.

GAs pictured are, First row: Nita Rainey, Amber Oberst, Dawn McKee, Christy Cedotal, Carey-Leigh Hullun, and Lindsey Curry.

Second row: Heather Franklin, Krissy King, Leigh Ellen Brock, Julie Adams, Denise Woods, Regan Pierce, Julie Lowery, Polly Gandy, Crystal Winfield, Andrea Herrin, and Tara Mathis.

Third row: Christi Alford, Bridgette Grammer, Dawn Phillips, Whitney Jordan, Carol Hooker, Miranda Sloan, Angela Winfield, Jennifer Lee, Kelly Levi, and Cari Oberst.

The GA leaders are, First grade, Grace Adams and Nancy Graham; Second grade, Angie Peacock and Sherlaine Ezell; Third and Fourth grade, Sharon Parker and Donna Robbins; Fifth and Sixth grade, Debbie Cedotal and Felicia McCardle; Linda Evans is GA director, and Leland H. Hogan is pastor.



Harmony Church, Picayune, recently held its coronation service for Acteens. The theme of the recognition was "Footsteps of Jesus."

Pictured are Mrs. Mary Pigott, WMU director, Mrs. Inez Davis, Acteen leader, Queens Tammy Meyers, Charrisia Daniels, Ashley Carroll, and Miss Jean Avallone as maid. Claude Howe is interim minister and Mrs. Thelma McDuffy is organist.

Harvest Day was observed Sunday, Nov. 15, at Melrose Church, Benton. James Allgood was the guest speaker.

Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship service, 11 a.m.; and was followed by dinner on the grounds, noon. Afternoon singing featured Bud Dixon, pastor of Scotland Church. James Garner is pastor.

Clarke holds Preview Day

The Clarke College campus was alive with activity on Oct. 14, as students from Forest Hill and Wingfield High Schools, Jackson; Union High School, Louisville High School and a number of high school graduates toured the campus in observance of fall Preview Day.

Added to the day's fun activities was Fall Festival which is an annual event planned for a half day on the Clarke Campus when students set up fun booths to which a small admission is charged. All proceeds from this festival are given to missions.

Visiting high school students are given the opportunity to sit in on classes, talk with advisors and gain a first-hand view of what Clarke has to offer.



Agricola Church, Lucedale, recently held its recognition service for GAs and Acteens. The Theme for Acteens was "Diamond By Design."

GAs pictured, at right front row, are Jennifer Cottingham, Scarlett Gilreath, Rachel Brown; 2nd row, Christie Cottingham, Pam Hollinghead, Amy Chisholm, Jessica Brannan; 3rd row, Lynda Kyle, leader; Amy Vise, and Denise Wallace, leader.

Acteens (above) left to right, are Brenda Hollinghead, leader; Tracy Dean, Tara Vice, Cathey Riley, and Connie Purvis, leader.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

Abraham views God's destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

By Rex Yancey

Genesis 18:17, 20-24, 32; 19:15-17, 24-26

Isaiah 41:8 says, "But you, Israel my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, descendant of Abraham my friend." Jesus said, "No longer



Yancey

(18:17).

Sodom and Gomorrah were wicked cities. However, the wickedness of the people did not go unnoticed by God. Make no mistake about it, God is perfectly informed as to what is going on in the world. God has no advisors to mislead him. Vance Havner said, "If God fails to judge America for her sin, he will have to resurrect Sodom and Gomorrah and apologize to those wicked cities." The point is, God has been judging America for a number of years now. We are becoming more secular by the hour.

BIBLE BOOK

We should not interpret verse 24 and following as though Abraham were haggling with God. Abraham was feeling his way forward in a spirit of faith as he mediated with God concerning Sodom and Gomorrah. He was concerned for the whole people and not for his kinsmen alone. Abraham pleaded with God for the wicked people and for his backslidden nephew, Lot. We need that kind of intercessor in our churches today.

This was the second time Abraham interceded for Sodom and Gomorrah (14:14). This kind of intercession on his part anticipated the blessing the whole world was to enjoy through him (12:3). This spirit of self-giving and compassion by Abraham pointed to one who would weep over the city of Jerusalem. This meeting took place on one of the heights east of Hebron in view of the sinful cities at a distance in the valley (19:22ff). The people had no idea either of their judge or of their intercessor.

Abraham wrestled with a new concept of

righteousness in verse 25. He knew that if Sodom and Gomorrah were investigated that they would be found guilty. However, should a minority of innocent people perish with a majority of the wicked people? Abraham was concerned for the whole city. But faith is trying to stretch itself in this verse. This bud of a theological thought blossomed in later generations. Abraham found out in the conversation with God that even a very small number of innocent men is more important in God's sight than a majority of sinners. This fact alone could stem the judgment of God.

Why did Abraham stop with ten? Why didn't he go on to five and then to one? Evidently, Abraham, after receiving God's answer in verse 32, reached a final limit, beyond which he would not ask. The major point was that God's will to save was predominant over his will to punish. If God were that willing to forgive, then we must accept the judgment of Sodom as just.

In 19:15-17, Lot was so rooted in the wicked city that he hesitated to leave. The angels had to take him by the hand to get him out of the city before he was destroyed. God's compassion and righteousness along with Abraham's intercession saved this family. Lot was not deserving of it. This rescue was by the grace of God.

The destruction of the city may have been a natural phenomenon. God may have used an earthquake to bring on his judgment of the city. This catastrophe released gases (hydrogen sulfide) or opened up the way for petroleum. If these minerals were ignited, the area would certainly be in flames.

Lot's wife looked back to the wicked city. She was turned into a pillar of salt. It is probable that in ancient times these pillars were pointed out and referred to as Lot's wife. However, the larger truth in this passage is that before divine judgment there is only the possibility of being smitten or of being rescued; there is no third alternative.

The next morning Abraham, the old man, went to the place where he had his conversation with God and looked toward Sodom. What a moving scene as the old man at the top of the mountain, bent over to peer below, saw the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Sodom would always be remembered by Israel as an example for all time of a complete divine judgment on a sinful community. (Would to God that America would learn this lesson before it is too late!)

Rex Yancey is pastor, First, Quitman.

Forgiveness: The step to life

By Julian W. Fagan III

Genesis 42:45; 50:15-21

The toughest civil lawsuits fall in three areas: domestic relations, property disputes, and contested estates. The reason is simple — a grudge.



Fagan

Grudges take place between people who have a relationship with one another. Somehow the relationship deteriorates and animosity builds between the parties; the fight is on. Much is not required to keep it going. The hostility is passed easily from one generation to the next. The Hatfields and McCoys are perfect examples of two families who had rather keep a grudge than life. Notice the rivalries that exist over silly things like ballgames; the fans even yell that the supporters from the other side should "go to hell."

The impact of a grudge is frightening. Why do Moslems hate Christians today? Why do brothers and sisters refuse to speak to one another? Why are common boundaries the sites

UNIFORM

of fist fights and shotguns? Why are so many of our churches the result of splits rather than the spirit of missions? Simply put, people like grudges. The last thing a man wants to give up is a grudge. We like vengeance. Look at the movies. Take away sex and vengeance and what would there be to watch on TV?

The fear of Joseph's brothers was that he would take vengeance against them. After all, they did not like him and did everything they could to get rid of him; therefore, they assumed he would do the same. Was that not the fear of their father Jacob toward their Uncle Esau? They had learned that people want to get even.

Now Joseph had the upper hand. His dreams had come true. The brothers were prostrate before him (Gen. 50:18). They even falsely implicate their father in their story. They had not changed much; they had lied to their father about their brother, now they lie to their brother about their father. The grudge easily could have continued at this point except that Joseph was a much greater man than his brothers. He could

see beyond the human act to the hand of God. God had worked good from the evil intended him. He understood that vengeance belonged to the Lord.

Certainly there would have been a degree of human satisfaction in getting back at them. They had cost him 13 years in slavery and in prison. How does one repay that? Yet, Joseph was able to look beyond the temporal to the work of God. Joseph saw life instead of death in the actions of his brothers. In spite of the grudge the brothers held, God had saved the people who would become the nation of Israel. He also saved the nation of Egypt and all the known world through the ministry of this man Joseph. Joseph could see with spiritual eyes. He could forgive.

If the fighting ever stops, if the war ever ends, if the bitterness ever ceases, someone will have to take the last lick, drop his hands and forgive. No other way exists to put an end to hatred but through love and forgiveness. Life does not consist in putting down others, or in taking what is theirs, or in keeping them from getting what is yours. Life is found in relationship with others, not in struggle with them.

Joseph could have grinned, but he wept. He could have made them slaves, but he gave them freedom. He could have put them in prison, but he gave them land and food. He could have given them death, but he gave them life. All the goodness that was to come to the children of Israel came as a direct result of the forgiveness of their brother Joseph. Ponder for a moment. What goodness has ever come from a grudge? Have any people been helped? Has anyone been lifted up? Encouraged? Made better?

On the other hand, ponder forgiveness. How many are helped? How many are lifted up? How many are stronger? How many are better people? How many are changed? Yes, changed. Forgiveness brings restoration. Forgiveness gives hope. Forgiveness produces life. Forgiveness is the mercy and grace from God that issues to eternal life. In relationships between people forgiveness is the healing balm. Before the grudge ends, someone must take the last lick, drop his hands, and forgive. Until that is done, all you have is a grudge. When that is done, you have taken the first step toward life.

Julian Fagan is pastor, First, Pontotoc.

Share Christ, no matter how difficult the circumstances

By Al Finch

Philippians 1:12-14, 18-21, 27-30

Paul was in a Roman prison when he wrote to the Philippians. He writes to his friends without bitterness. His interest is the interest of Christ and the circumstances are endured if Christ is exalted. The gospel had been proclaimed in the emperor's palace and beyond. Those who proclaimed the gospel were fearlessly confident in their work. How did Paul achieve that attitude?



Finch

First, THE GOSPEL WAS ADVANCED (Philippians 1:14, 18). Those encouraged by Paul's faithfulness were advancing the gospel. Paul rejoiced that the gospel was preached and this fact enabled him to endure

LIFE AND WORK

imprisonment. Paul's interest was the same as Christ's, so when he suffered and the gospel succeeded he was strengthened.

Again, there was strength for Paul IN THE PROGRESS OF THE BELIEVERS (Philippians 1:19). Support from Philippi came in the form of prayer. This was real support. One in prison may have the feelings of loneliness or of being forsaken. In a warm Christian fellowship the Philippians were praying for Paul even in his difficulties. One can endure much if there are those who pray for him. Remember this example when fellow-believers are going through difficult times.

There was also THE "HELP OF THE SPIRIT OF JESUS CHRIST" (Philippians 1:19). The real strength of the believer is the

indwelling of the Holy Spirit. This Spirit is the "life energy of God." His life is in ours. In the difficult times one gains strength from that life energy. Name the problems you face as a believer and be assured that God has power to help.

Another strength for Paul was THE UNITY OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY (Philippians 1:27-28). The life style of "One Spirit, with one mind striving together" advances the gospel of Christ. One does not need to fear the "adversaries" in a community united in Christ "for the faith of the gospel."

Interestingly, as Paul had suffered the community of faith may suffer, also (Philippians 1:29-30). If one is faithful to Christ he may expect to suffer for him. Each generation had its own arena for suffering. For Paul it was the Roman prison; for us suffering will be different. Yet the primary purpose for our lives as

believers is to share the gospel of Christ. We must not forget, no matter how difficult our life, the primary purpose of living is in Christ.

Paul gave us the principle in Philippians 1:20-21. Whether living or dying Christ is to be magnified. Christ is to be our life! Even when it is better to leave behind our sufferings, Christ is to be our life. In your life, in good times or bad, do not forget to share Christ.

Al Finch is pastor, First, Greenwood.

"Cover Up"

Abraham Lincoln was once insulted by a fellow who said, "I used to have a beard like yours, but when I realized how it made me look I cut it off."

"Wal," drawled Lincoln, "to tell the truth, I used to have a face like yours, and when I realized that I couldn't cut it off I grew this beard."

Baptist Record

Thomas explains churches' concerns during IRS meeting

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP) — A discussion of tax provisions relating to churches began hostilely but ended on a positive note during the first meeting of a newly created Internal Revenue Service advisory panel on tax-exempt organizations.

Members of the Commissioner's Exempt Organizations Advisory Group began by criticizing Internal Revenue Code provisions that relate to churches. But after hearing concerns raised by a Southern Baptist church-state attorney, IRS Commissioner Lawrence Gibbs and other panel members indicated a desire to work with church representatives on reconciling issues of mutual concern.

Drawing early criticism were provisions which exempt churches from filing informational tax returns and which protect churches from intrusive tax audits.

An IRS official also criticized churches' potential political involvement. He said since campaign contributions are not deductible but church contributions are, he is concerned churches could become a "national channel for channeling money into political campaigns."

Discussion within the group also charged Congress with limiting IRS ability to investigate churches. IRS officials told the panel that without legislative changes, abuses of the tax law by churches would continue.

Following the initial round of discussion, Oliver S. Thomas, general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, was given an opportunity to respond.

Thomas began by criticizing IRS failure to include even one church representative on the advisory group, which is made up of tax-law experts.

"I want you to know that churches are sensitive to the concerns that have been expressed around the table," he said. "We recognize the government's legitimate interest in preventing fraud, private inurement, and other misconduct."

But Thomas cautioned the group against intruding into the internal financial affairs of churches.

"The First Amendment provides churches with protections against government intrusion and entanglement that are not available to secular organizations," he said. "Therefore, any change in existing law must be done carefully. We don't want to move precipitously in an area of law that has been carefully crafted over several decades."

Thomas told the committee that churches are concerned about public perception of misconduct by religious organizations. "Don't confuse mainstream religious America with what went on at the PTL Club," he said.

"The vast majority of religious organizations are in perfect compliance with the tax codes."

Also expressing concern on behalf of churches were Gary S. Nash, general counsel for the Southern Baptist Annuity Board and secretary of the Church Alliance, and Deirdre Halloran, associate general counsel for the United States Catholic Conference.

"We want to be constructive, but we do not want to be looking in from the outside," Thomas concluded. "We need to be involved in the process."

Following Thomas' remarks, Commissioner Gibbs expressed his appreciation for the input and his desire for the IRS and the religious community to begin a "constructive dialogue" on issues of mutual concern. "I think we have ended on a very positive note," Gibbs said.

Several advisory group members also expressed their support for involving churches in deliberations with the IRS.

After the meeting, Thomas sent a letter to Robert Brauer, IRS assistant commissioner for employee plans and exempt organizations, suggesting the creation of a study group comprised of representatives from the IRS, Treasury Department, and churches to explore the various questions raised during the advisory group's meeting.

Thomas told Baptist Press he is confident current law contains adequate safeguards to protect the general public from what he called charlatans.

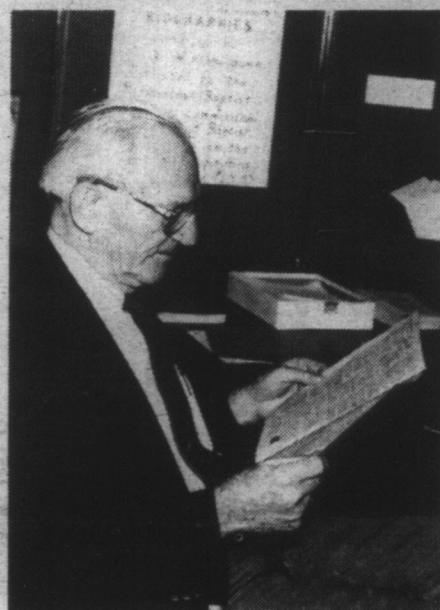
"There are plenty of laws currently on the books prohibiting mail fraud, fraudulent solicitation, the use of a tax-exempt organization for personal gain and the like," he said. "We don't need to invite the IRS into church business meetings in order to solve the few problems that exist."

Kathy Palen writes for the Baptist Joint Committee.



J. B. Stewart of Columbia, left, buys a book from a Baptist Book Store team at the convention — Evelyn Keyes and Stan Costilow. Stewart, a retired minister works with senior adults. This year, he said, he has already been involved in trips, conferences, and seminars with at least 700 senior adults.

Convention scenes



Jack Gunn reads the Daily Bulletin. From Cleveland, he is author of a new book, *Mississippi Baptist Convention Ministers*.



Roy Raddin, left director of missions, Washington Association, consults with Brian Harbour, Bible Treasure speaker, after his Wednesday morning message.

Subcommittee looks at tax exemption of TV ministries

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP) — A House subcommittee looked at the application of federal tax rules to television ministries during a hearing that featured tax administrators and religious broadcasters.

In addition to testimony by Internal Revenue Service and Treasury Department officials, the House Oversight Subcommittee also heard from some of the best-known names in television ministries, including Jerry Falwell of the Old Time Gospel Hour, D. James Kennedy of Coral Ridge Ministries, and John Ankerberg of the John Ankerberg Evangelistic Association.

Subcommittee Chairman J.J. Pickle, D-Texas, said the hearing was scheduled to help answer questions raised during recent months about the tax-exempt status of television ministries. He emphasized the need to consider the IRS's administration and enforcement of present tax law and television ministries' interpretation of

and compliance with those rules.

"I want to make it clear that the subcommittee is not undertaking to investigate any specific television ministry or tax-exempt organization," Pickle said. "We are not questioning religious practices or beliefs. The subcommittee will be addressing only those issues relating to the federal tax rules."

Lawrence Gibbs, IRS commissioner, told the group, "Working together, Congress, the church community, and the administration may be able to formulate new rules or interpretations that adequately protect the rights of the many honest churches and other religious organizations while allowing us to detect and deter the abuses of a few."

In their questioning of Gibbs, subcommittee members were divided over whether changes are needed in current tax laws that relate to churches.

Rep. Richard T. Schulze, R-Pa., told

Gibbs he "feels apologetic" because the IRS has not been given the tools it needs to do its job. Rep. Beryl Anthony Jr., D-Ark., countered that Congress has provided adequate tools, but the IRS has failed to use them.

The religious broadcasters who appeared before the panel testified that their organizations meet all federal tax rules and provided documentation to support that testimony.

The subcommittee also heard about efforts by religious broadcasters to police themselves. A proposed plan recently approved by the National Religious Broadcasters board of directors would require all members to have external audits, make public their financial statements, file annual IRS information forms, avoid nepotism in employment, publish the incomes of principal employees, and maintain certain standards and records in fund raising.

Kathy Palen writes for the BP Washington bureau.

Canadians dedicate seminary

CALGARY, Alberta (BP) — Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary was dedicated during the third annual meeting of the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists here.

Nearly 160 convention messengers also elected a convention president, adopted a philosophy of student ministry on 14 college campuses and recognized the emergence of ministry to ethnics as a key part of Canadian Southern Baptist work.

The messengers represented 91 churches and numerous ethnic groups, including Chinese, Cambodians, Laotians, Koreans, Filipinos, Hispanics, French, native Americans, and Haitians.

The seminary dedication service was held in the nearly completed main academic building on the 149-acre campus near Calgary. The 16,000-square-foot structure houses administrative and faculty offices, classrooms, a chapel, library, and lounge.

Classes started Sept. 1 with 20 students. Planned for the future are separate classroom and library buildings, a chapel, and a gymnasium.

Convention executive director Allen Schmidt reported on Canadian Southern Baptist progress from the west coast to Montreal. Twenty-one

churches or mission congregations were begun during the last 15 months, he said, marking the fastest growth period in Canadian Southern Baptist history.

Baptist Record

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The Baptist Record

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Prediction: 10,000 vols worldwide

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — When Baptists settle their differences and get back to God's business, they will have 10,000 lay mission volunteers serving around the world, predicted the former Southern Baptist Convention president who led in launching Mission Service Corps.

Jimmy R. Allen, who was elected SBC president when the convention adopted Mission Service Corps — the army of lay mission volunteers — as a key component of Southern Baptist mission efforts in 1977, spoke at a 10th anniversary breakfast of MSC during the Baptist General Convention of Texas meeting here.

About 400 current and former MSC volunteers heard Allen say, "I believe that if we hadn't been caught up in controversy in the past few years, we would have 10,000 volunteers serving now."

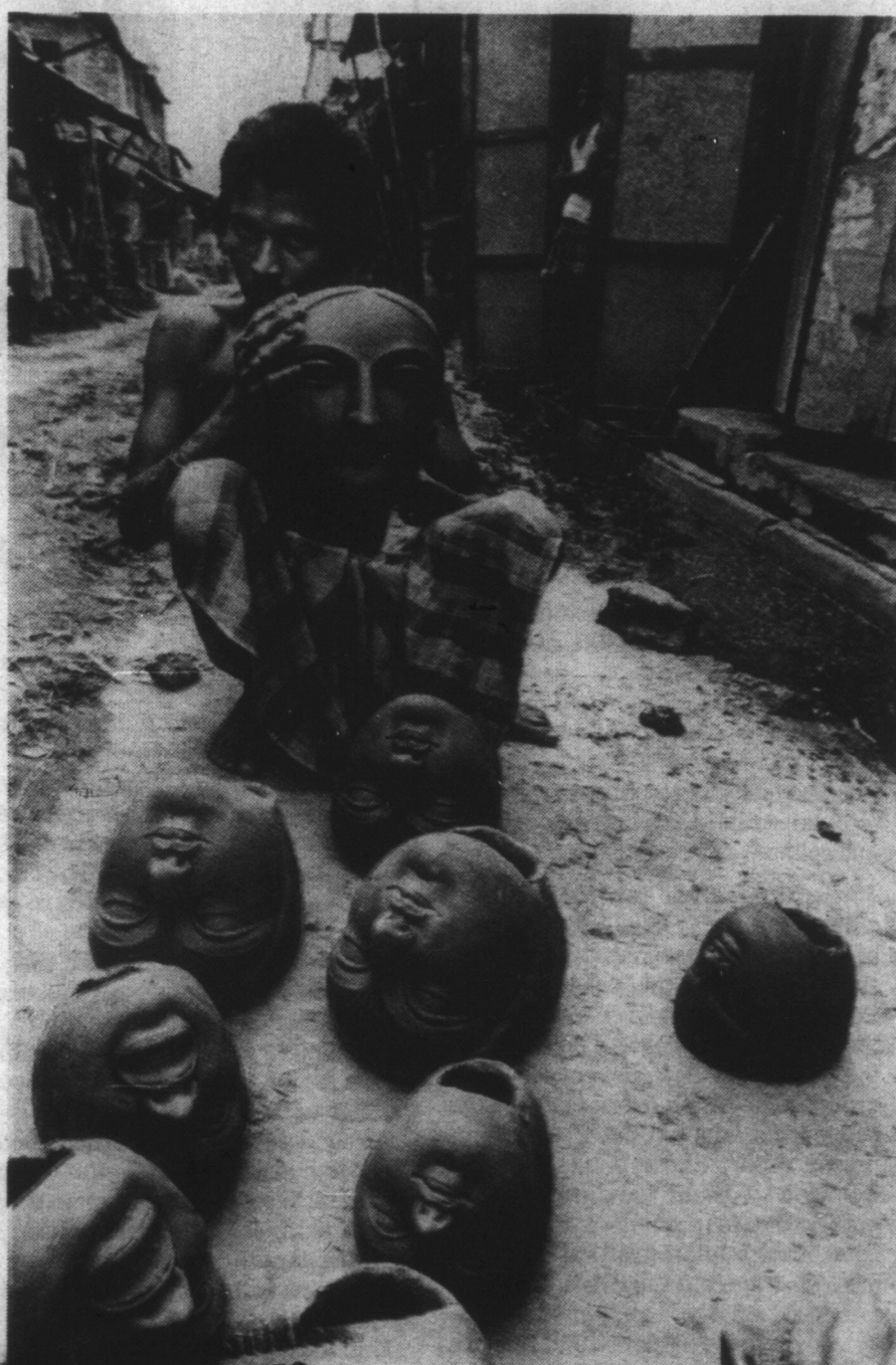
Texas MSC Coordinator Sam Pearis said 2,198 MSC volunteers have been assigned from 1977 to October 1987, about 40 percent of them from Texas.

About 1,000 adults of all ages are serving now, he said.

Allen, who is president of the SBC Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth, said MSC volunteers have done the equivalent of about \$1 million in services and support through the American Christian Television Network.

His own family has been blessed in that his son, Scott, is an MSC worker, he added.

The days of sending missionaries to China are over, Allen said, but he envisions 1,000 Mission Service Corps volunteers teaching and serving there in other capacities. The Radio and Television Commission is negotiating with Chinese television officials for the Centurymen choir to do a concert including gospel music on nationwide television. It could be seen by 500 million Chinese, he said.



LIBRARY AND RECORDS
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

Idol maker

In the great Indian city of Calcutta a whole section of the city houses people like this man who work year-round making clay idols for various Hindu ceremonies and festivals. India has one of the world's largest Baptist populations. But it also has the world's second largest total population — more than 85 million. Among that number, Christians are a tiny minority. As you "Pray . . . That All May Hear" during the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions, pray especially for the residents of major non-Christian cities such as Calcutta. (FMB) PHOTO by Joanna Pinneo

World Hunger Day is day of a funeral

World Hunger Day, Oct. 11, 1987, was observed in the Baptist Church of Colonia Berlin, one mile north of the city of El Progreso, Honduras, with a funeral wake for a two-year-old child who died of malnutrition. Joining the family and neighbors in the sad occasion were Missionaries Stanley and Glenna Stamps, who serve in that church and Mary Futrell, professor of nutrition at Mississippi State University.

Futrell was in Honduras invited by the Honduran Baptist Woman's Missionary Union to conduct seminars on nutrition in Baptist churches in several cities. Barely two days before, she had led two conferences on the importance of proper nutrition in Colonia Berlin. Both the mother and father of little Leila, who then was in the hospital, attended at least one of the conferences.

Leila had been critically ill for several weeks due to complications that supposedly set in after she had received an anti-malarial treatment, and her malnourished and anemic body didn't resist. I had been out of town, learned about the child's condition a couple of weeks later, and sought advice from a public health nurse who is Baptist. Leila's parents, Chico and Lupe, took her to the hospital the following day, where she was interned for treatment. Lack of proper blood for her type and adequate medications prolonged the child's agony. Two weeks later the child died.

It was a useless death, brought on by poverty, ignorance and inattention; but it wasn't the first. Barely six months before, a two-year-old daughter of another family that attends Colonia Berlin Church died of meningitis complicated by malnutrition and anemia.

Nor was this the last occasion, for as the family and friends buried little Leila, another tiny open grave near by awaited the body of another child

from the same community who had died hours later from the same cause. To make matters worse Leila's brother spent two weeks in the hospital a few months before receiving rehydration treatment for malnutrition and diarrhea. He recovered, but he's a long way from being the robust, healthy boy he should be. Chances are slim that he will be unless something is done to change the dismal picture his home presents. A tiny infant brother joined the family a month ago. The children's father works as a block mason for \$7.50 a day, occasionally, when work is available.

So on World Hunger Sunday, while fellow Baptists back in the USA were praying and giving to help combat world hunger, Mary Futrell along with missionary Glenna Stamps, sat down beside a grieving mother who knew the pain of hunger and the grief at the loss of a child because of it. She has served as a volunteer in nutrition for the Foreign Mission Board and for other agencies in more than 30 Third World countries.

In an effort to try to respond to the great needs of their community, both physical and spiritual, members of the Baptist congregation entered into a dialogue about possible solutions they might pursue. These might include a nutritional center for infant children of poor families and a day care center for single mothers of small children.

Colonia Berlin is a compact community of small houses built with funds provided by the West German government following floods caused by Hurricane Fifi in 1974. Numerous poor families who had been affected by the floods were able to secure low cost housing in this and similar communities that sprang up around El Progreso. Most of the people make their living as day laborers or small vendors, but a large number are unemployed.

Small, overlooked book deals with today's crises

By Frank Wm. White

NASHVILLE — Malachi, as the small, often overlooked, final book of the Old Testament, speaks to Christians today with a clarion call to integrity, according to a Southern Baptist Bible scholar.

Malachi is the 1988 January Bible Study book for adults.

"Malachi calls for integrity among religious people," said Bill Tolar, dean of theology at Southwestern Seminary, who taught the book last summer at a Sunday School leadership con-

ference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

The book of Malachi begins with a condemnation of the priest for corruption in religious practices.

"That speaks directly to the problems the church is facing in America today with the scandals in religion," Tolar said.

Tolar said Christians and non-Christians alike are disillusioned with indiscretions of local pastors and national evangelists alike.

But, Tolar said, church members must also be called to in-

tegrity because they are scrutinized by non-Christians as representatives of their faith.

A study guide for use by participants in January Bible Study, "Malachi: Rekindling the Fires of Faith," has been written by Page Kelley, professor of Old Testament interpretation at Southern Seminary.

The January Bible Study in Malachi allows the study leader to call church members to a renewed commitment to religious principles and faithfulness just as the

writer was calling a disillusioned Israel to a renewed vision, Tolar said.

Probably the verse most often quoted from Malachi, an admonition to bring the tithes into the storehouse, can lend a stewardship emphasis to the study, Tolar said.

"Malachi sees a lack of stewardship as the result of a lack of inner devotion," Tolar said.

Malachi deals with a crisis in the ministry, family crisis, religious commitment, and financial commitment — all important topics today, Tolar said.

While January Bible Study "does not replace an ongoing study of God's Word, it is a boost of additional vitamins," Tolar said.

The size of the book allows in-depth coverage of the material in January Bible sessions, he said.

Youth will study the book of 1 John for January Bible Study. Studies are also provided for preschoolers and children.

Study and promotional resources are available in Baptist Book Stores.

White writes for the Sunday School Board.

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Is there a message . . . ?

When the Israelites were camped outside of Jericho, before they began their seven-day march around the city, Joshua looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword. Joshua asked the man, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"

"Neither," the man said. And he added, "... but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come."

There is a parallel to be drawn between the above and the present circumstances among Southern Baptists. Please don't misunderstand. We are not calling the two sides in the controversy "enemies." They are very definitely brothers in the faith. And the editor of the *Baptist Record* certainly is not the captain of the army of the Lord. But, in spite of what anyone might want to say, the *Baptist Record* is not aligned with either side.

A recent letter asked the editor to print the names of the Gatlinburg Gang. Except for the two Sherman brothers, Cecil of Fort Worth and Bill of Nashville, I have no idea who made up the Gatlinburg Gang. For those who don't know, the Gatlinburg Gang is the name given to a group of people who met in Gatlinburg, Tenn., in the early 1980s to consider what to do about the political efforts of the group that had begun the takeover of the convention in Houston in 1979.

Shortly after that meeting in Gatlinburg I told Bill Sherman that I didn't like what his group was doing any more than I did what the other side was doing. The folks who became known as moderates complained loudly about the political activities of those now called conservatives.

It can be said with some amount of accuracy that those now described as moderates were pretty well in charge of the Southern Baptist Convention until 1979, and they had the good wishes of Southern Baptists in general though not in totality. With the 1979

Southern Baptist Convention, however, the votes began to change.

With the 1987 convention the conservatives had pretty well taken over the convention.

Now the scene has come full circle. A number of state conventions this year reversed the conservative movement. Last week a group of conservative pastors and laymen met in Atlanta to consider what could be done about the efforts of the moderates. They complained about the political activities of the moderates.

A word of explanation is in order. Very, very few Southern Baptists are anything other than conservative. There may be a bit of theological difference between the extremists on one side of the spectrum and those on the other. If there is, it is not great. With the great mass of Southern Baptists there is not a thimble full of difference. The words conservative and moderate are used to distinguish the two sides. Those called conservative don't like to be called fundamentalists, and so they are not. Those called moderates don't like to be called that, but they can't do anything about it. They are conservatives, too. There has to be some way of distinguishing the sides, however.

So the conservatives have met in Atlanta to discuss appropriate responses to the moderates' doing the same thing the conservatives had done earlier. "We are grieved and dismayed," the group said, about the failure to maintain the spirit of the St. Louis convention in its response to the report of the Peace Committee. But the peace of the St. Louis convention had been blasted when the conservatives tried to fire Larry Baker of the Christian Life Commission, with the conservative effort to dismantle the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs after its 50 years of service to

multiple Baptist conventions, with the conservative alteration of procedures at Southeastern Seminary to the extent that the president and the academic dean resigned their posts, and with the conservative complaint about Executive Committee President Harold Bennett visiting the pope.

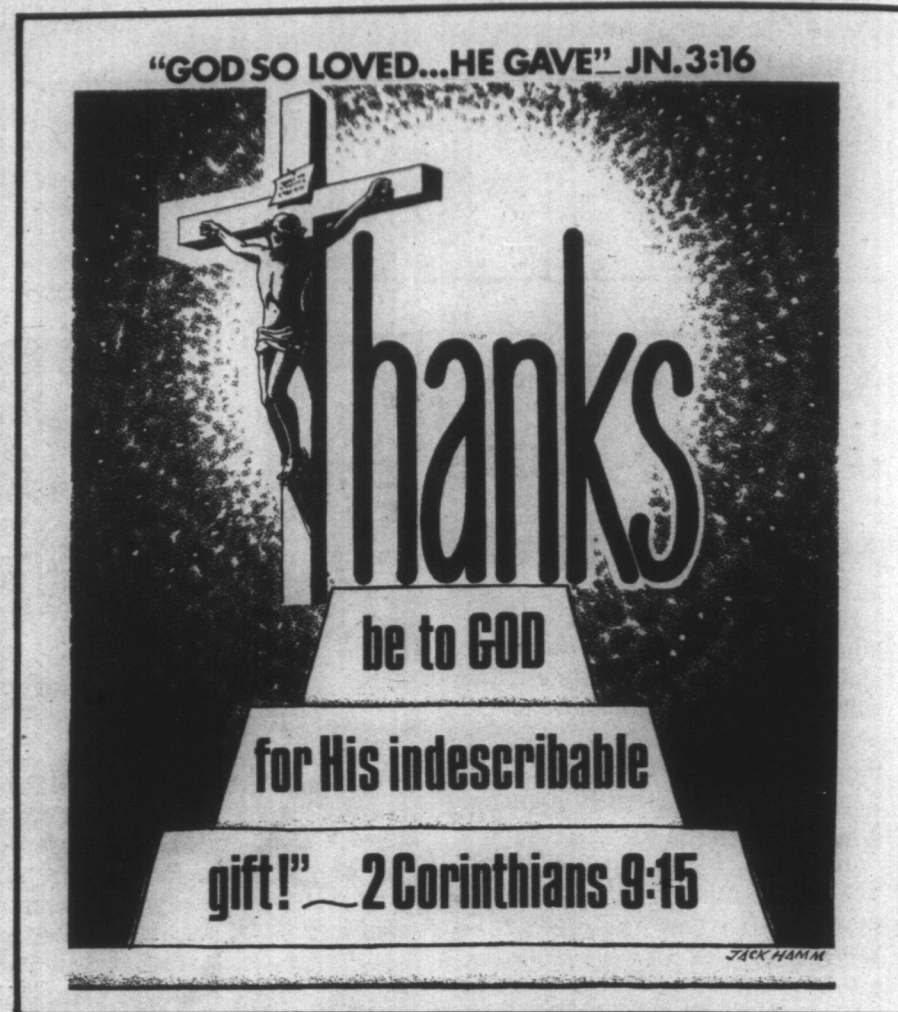
The conservative group adopted seven general principles, and surely most Southern Baptists would agree with their statements.

A word of explanation, however, is in order also concerning their seven principles. In No. 3 are listed the four statements taken from the Peace Committee report:

1. The direct creation of mankind and therefore Adam and Eve were real persons.
2. The named authors did indeed write the biblical books attributed to them by those books.
3. The miracles described in Scripture did indeed occur as supernatural events in history.
4. The historical narratives given by biblical authors are indeed accurate and reliable as given by those authors.

The Peace Committee report claims that most Southern Baptists believe these statements, and that surely must be the case. And the Peace Committee never intended for those points to become a creed. Since the convention, however, conservative groups have insisted that because the convention adopted the Peace Committee report, those points must be followed without deviation. That makes the four points a creed. We have always claimed that Baptists have no creed but the Bible. But if we are to be bound by a statement beliefs, even though we agree with it, then we have a creed.

This is not in the nature of a complaint about the points. They are fine. And maybe we need a creed. We



haven't had one before, however, so why should we have one now?

The statement by the conservative group says that the group met because of its concern about peace in the convention. That's fine. They are to be commended for their desire for peace.

It is worthy of note, however, that a lot of other people have been concerned about peace in the convention for the past eight years while the conservative forces have been taking over the convention.

Surely everyone is concerned about peace and longs for peace. But where should the conservatives look in their search for those who have caused a lack of peace?

Some are to be found within their own ranks.

This fuss would be over tomorrow if the warring groups on both sides would simply decide to accept the votes of the bodies and not meet beforehand or afterward to determine

what to do about the votes.

We don't need the Southern Baptist Alliance, which is an organization of moderates; and we don't need the conservative caucus. As long as we have one, however; we are going to have both.

Joshua was wise. He asked the man who confronted him what message the Lord had for him. The man told Joshua to take off his sandals, for he was on holy ground.

Southern Baptists are locked in a controversy, and very likely the Lord hasn't chosen sides in it. Perhaps he has a message for us. If so, and more than likely it is so, we also are standing on holy ground and need to recognize that fact.

Why don't we ask him if he has a message? The one calm meeting that has graced Southern Baptists lately was the recent trustee meeting at Southwestern Seminary that followed a prayer meeting.

A war on trash

The *Baptist Record* is announcing a war on trash on the roadside. We will be calling attention to this blight on the scenery from time to time, and we are urging the Legislature to enter into some kind of action to seek to alleviate the problem.

The problem with trash does not stem from a lack of laws. The persons who dump trash on the road are subject to fines up to \$500 and can be required to clean up a mile of roadside because of their actions. The problem is that they have to be caught.

So when one drives along the interstate or some other well traveled highway he is likely to see litter in the form of fast food boxes and papers of all sorts that have been thrown out of passing cars. Since violations of this

sort are hard to spot, people dump their trash as they drive along. It is bad on the interstate highways. The less traveled the road is, the more pronounced the trash problem becomes. On some of the beautiful country lanes through lovely stands of pine can be found items such as mattresses, refrigerators, and sofas and sometimes even the carcass of a dead calf.

The pronounced insensitivity of the people who would dump such things in order to avoid their own responsibility and thus mess up the countryside for everyone else is incomprehensible. But they do it, and the problems cannot be solved by enforcement of the laws. There are not enough law enforcement officers to see them as they perpetrate their

crimes. And crimes they are, for what they do is against the law. That makes criminals of those who throw out trash along the road, but that makes no difference to them. If they are insensitive enough to do that, they are not worried about breaking the law, regardless of how much it affects their fellow citizens.

It will take education to make a difference. Citizens of the state who wish to keep our roads clean and pretty will have to teach those to care who have not cared.

And here is where the Legislature comes in. In Texas, for instance, stretches of road are adopted by churches, civic groups, businesses, and other entities that covenant to keep a mile or two of the road clear of trash. Signs

are placed along the road to give the information as to who is taking care of that section. Perhaps a resolution by the Legislature would encourage groups in Mississippi to enter into such programs. Once such a program got under way, it should encourage those not involved in it to not dump trash along the road. It would not be likely to eliminate the problem entirely, but it should make a big difference.

We must do something, and the *Baptist Record* is covenanting to keep the matter before the people. As a part of this process we will be running drawings calling attention to the need. The drawings have been prepared by Kerry Jackson, a young deacon in Alta Woods Church, Jackson.



Let's keep Mississippi clean. If Baptists will stop throwing out trash, it will make an appreciable difference.

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